has suggested imposition of a moratorium on strikes, lockouts and fresh recruitments to improve the working of the public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A Sub-Group of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, on "Cost effectiveness in public Sector" has recommended among other things imposition of a moratorium on strikes, lockouts and fresh recruitments improve the functioning of the public sector undertakings. The Report of the sub-group is under consideration of the Government.

Filling up of the post branch postmasters in Badkagaon

557. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Branch postmaster for Badkagaon (Sonkarsa) Branch Office, Muzaffarpur District (Bihar) is lying vacant for more than a year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a candidate for the said post was duly selected in January, 1987;

(c) whether the said selected candidate has since been appointed and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are aware that due to non filling up of Branch Postmaster at Badkagaon, inconvenience is being caused to the public?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir, the post of EDBPM Badkagaon (Sonkarsa) stands filled up.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Candidate who was selected has joined duty as EDBPM on 14th August 1987.

(d) Does not arise.

Settlement of charter of demands by trade Unions in the coal industry

558. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for an early settlement of the charter of demands submitted by the trade unions in the coal industry and immediate implementation of the left-out provisions of the last national coal wage agreement;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken to settle the demands;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The charter of demands received from the Central Trade Unions for concluding National Coal Wage Agreement-IV are under discussion in the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry. Attempts is to conclude the agreement as quickly as possible

The last Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA-III) which expired on 31-12-1986 has been substantially implemented. One main provision that could not be implemented related to providing employment to a dependent of each retiring employee. This provision was found to be violative of the Constitution. There were also some shortfalls in fulfilling the targets set for certain welfare measures especially housing where the main difficulty experienced was lack of land.